Exploiting renewable sources of energy

3642. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give a better thrust to the exploitation of new and renewable sources of energy to meet the energy needs in urban and far-flung rural areas in a decentralised manner;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether State Governments have been issued guidelines in this regard, and

(d) if so, how far State Governments will be in a position to meet energy needs in their respective States?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources have taken steps susbject to financial constraints to intensify research and development, to undertake demonstration projects and to support large scale extension activities in respect of matured technologies such as biogas, solar energy, improved chulhas, etc. to meet the energy needs especially in rural areas in a decentralised manner and also for certain urban energy requirements. The success of this is evidenced by the fact that in a short time more than 10 lakhs of family biogas plants, 40 lakhs of Improved Chulhas, 2000 domestic solar water heaters and 1450 large size solar hot water systems, etc. have been installed. Moreover, 12,000 villages have been made "Smokeless" and 3000 remote villages have been lit up with solar power devices. These programmes have become popular and effective particularly in far flung rural areas. The State Governments/ nodal agencies, public institutions and voluntary organisations have been actively involved in planning, implementation, and utilisation of available central assistance. Necessary guidelines have been issued in this regard and states have been asked to promote the use of new and renewable energy sources as far as possible. If more funds are provided for these programmes, they can be further expanded and accelerated.

Discontentment among ONGC officials due to stagnation

3643. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is discontentment and resentment among the ONGC officials over the stagnation in promotional avenues;

(b) whether it is also a fact that promotion to the post of S.G. (Wells) vide Circular No. 34(1) 86 Rec II dated 15th February, 1986 was given to officers who did not fulfil the requisite qualifications as prescribed in the Circular ignoring the senior and qualified officers; and

(c) if so, on what considerations Shri G. C. Saxena was promoted as S.G. (Wells) w.e.f. 1st January 1987 out of turn even though he did not fulfil the requisite criteria by ignoring the rightful claim of Dy S. G. (Wells) who is nine years senior to him and a qualified person?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No such problem had been brought to the notice of Government.

(b) and (c) Promotions to the post of Suptdg. Geologist (Wells) was made by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in accordance with the established procedure, after taking into account all the relevant factors including candidate's qualifications, experience and performance at the interview.

Corruption in DESU Management

3644. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of workers of DESU have recently protested against the